

## NEWS RELEASE

### Board partners with Oakland Schools to create two new student contests

**January 23, 2020 OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – The Board of Commissioners and Oakland Schools have partnered to create two new student contests in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Women’s Suffrage in 2020. More than \$2,000 in cash prizes will be distributed to the winners courtesy of Cornerstone Community Financial Credit Union.

“This is another exciting partnership with Oakland Schools that will highlight the creative talents of our students, as well as the history of women’s suffrage,” Board Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township) said.

The “Get Out and Vote!” PSA contest is open to students in grades 6-12. Students should work alone or in groups to create a 30-second public service announcement encouraging Oakland County residents to “Get Out and Vote!” in 2020. Representatives from the Motion Picture Institute and Digital Arts, Film & Television will judge entries based on creativity, effectiveness of the “Get Out and Vote!” message, technical production and interpretation of the theme of “The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage.” One student or group in grades 6-8 and one from 9-12 will each win \$300. One student or group in grades 6-12 will be named the “People’s Choice” and will also win \$300.

The poetry contest is open to students in grades K-12. Students must write an original poem, like many of the suffragettes who wrote poetry to promote their views and recruit people to the cause, related to the theme of “The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage.” Judging will be based on creativity, poetic skill and interpretation of the theme. Students must have a teacher submit their poem on their behalf. One student in grades K-5, one in grades 6-8 and one in grades 9-12 will each win \$300. The teachers submitting entries for their students will also receive \$200 to use in their classrooms.

“Investing in our youth and their education is so important to us at Cornerstone Community Financial,” Heidi Kassab, president and CEO of Cornerstone Community Financial Credit Union, said. “We are humbled to be partnering with the Board of Commissioners and Oakland Schools to support a cause that

not only encourages creativity in our school-aged youth in the community, but also highlights the importance of this moment in history.”

Contest participants must attend school in Oakland County, although residency is not required. Entries for both contests must be submitted online at [bit.ly/OSCntsts2020](https://bit.ly/OSCntsts2020) no later than **Friday, March 20, 2020**.

"The artistic response from Oakland County students for the 'I Voted!' Sticker contest was incredible, so we've decided to reach back out to them to see what else they can create," Oakland Schools' Superintendent Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson said. "I'm excited to see their public service announcement and poetry submissions."

The contests are part of a yearlong calendar of events and programming to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Gershenson serves as chair of the committee, which also includes Commissioners **Angela Powell** (D-Pontiac) and **Tom Kuhn** (R-Troy).

For more information about the contests, visit [www.oakgov.com/VotesForWomen](https://www.oakgov.com/VotesForWomen). For more information about the Board of Commissioners, visit [www.oakgov.com/boc](https://www.oakgov.com/boc) or call 248-858-0100.

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